

me then from the sweet and satisfactory calmness I was enjoying and made me see how I was obliged to wish I could succeed to the crown. Apart from the interest of the Church, the love I have for the Prince influences me to wish him all he deserves. And whilst I regret that I have only three crowns to bring him, it is not my love which blinds me : no, I can see his faults, but I say that because I also recognise his virtues.¹

Mary threw herself heart and soul into William's design, and had no doubt either of its justice or its necessity. In her narrative she describes her last interview with William before he set sail.

The 25th [of October] the Prince . . . told me again that in case it was God's will that I should never see him any more (words which cut me to the heart, and gave me such a shiver that at the hour at which I write it has scarcely passed off)—if that happened, he said, you must marry again. If the first word hurt me so cruelly, the latter surprised and gripped me so strongly and put me into such a state that I felt as if my heart had burst. There is no need, he continued, for me to tell you it must not be a papist. He could not pronounce these words without shedding tears, and during the whole interview he displayed as much tenderness for me as I could desire, so that I shall never forget it all my life. But I was so astounded by this suggestion that I could not reply for a long time. He protested that the anxiety he had for the religion was the sole

cause of his
speaking thus. I do not remember at all what I
said. My
agitation made me reply in a confused way, but
I assured
him that I had never loved anyone but him,
and could
never love another. In addition, having been
married for so
many years without its being God's will to bless
me with a
child, I believe that was enough to prevent my
thinking of
what he had suggested. I told him I hoped God
would not
suffer me to survive him ; if however I did
survive him,

¹ Bentinck, pp. 62-3.